

said partition member has a communication path through which said first air passage and said second air passage communicative with each other;

during said inside air/outside air double laminar mode, said communication path is closed so that inside air from said inside-air suction port is introduced into said first air opening portion through said first air passage and outside air from said outside-air suction port is introduced into said second opening portion through said second air passage;

during said outside air mode, said communication path is opened so that outside air from said outside-air suction port is introduced into said second air passage while being introduced into said first air passage through said communication path.

In the Drawings

Pending approval of the Examiner, Applicant's attorney would like to amend the drawings in the above-identified application as follows:

Figure 1, Please add temperature sensor 39 in phantom along with its associated reference numeral and leader line.

Figure 10, please move the winter set temp. from C to A and move the summer set temp. from A to C.

Figure 11A, please delete the "prior art" designation.

Figure 11B, please delete the "prior art" designation.

Figure 11C, please delete the "prior art" designation.

Figure 11D, please delete the "prior art" designation.

These changes are shown in red on the attached marked-up copies of the drawings.

A separate letter to the Official Draftsman in accordance with MPEP 608.02(r) is enclosed herewith.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10 and 19-24 remain pending in the present application. Claims 9 and 11-18 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claims 19-24 are new. Basis

for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. The amendments presented in this response are the same as presented in our earlier non-entered response mailed June 7, 2000.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action mailed January 20, 2000, Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over prior art Figure 11C and Figure 11D in view of JA '411 or JA '831 or JA '426 and JA '645. The Examiner has based his rejection of Figures 11A-11D of the present application which are labeled "PRIOR ART". These Figures were mistakenly identified as prior art by the Applicants, when in fact, these drawings are the same as Figures 8a to 8d of JP8-152721 which is one of the priority documents for the parent application and the present application. Enclosed with this amendment is a copy of Figures 8c-8d and a translation of the portion of priority document JP8-152721 which relates to Figures 8a-8d of that priority application. As can be seen, Figures 8a-8d of the JP8-152721 are identical to Figures 11A-11D of the present application and the specification of the priority document is similar to that of the present application (page 5 of the translation and page 25 of the application). The present application has therefore been amended to remove the "PRIOR ART" designation for Figures 11A-11D.

Regarding the removal of the "Prior Art" designation, the inventors of the present application are the same as those of the JP8-152721 priority application. The confusion regarding the term "conventional air conditioning unit" comes from the fact that in Figures 8a-8d (and thus Figures 11A-11D of the present invention) are based off of a conventional air conditioning unit. This "conventional" air conditioning unit without sensor 39 is shown in JP5-124426 which was identified as prior art to this application. The inventors took this "conventional" air conditioner and added sensor 39 to experimentally study what happens when a sensor is added to the first and second air passages. This study is described in the partial translation of JP8-152721 under the heading "Problem to be Solved by the Invention" beginning on page 2. Thus, the "Prior Art" designation is valid for the air conditioner without sensor 39

but it is not valid for the air conditioner with sensor 39 and this is the issue which confused the inventors of the present application.

Regarding sensor 80, the inventors are aware that sensor 80 detects the temperature of air having passed through evaporator 31. JP-A-747831 is silent as to its location and the inventors of the present invention are not aware of its specification in the disclosed air conditioner. It was only after completing the experimental study using sensor 39 that the inventors of the present invention realized the significance of specifically locating the sensor.

Enclosed with this Amendment is a Declaration from each of the inventors of the present invention attesting to the above information. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to approve the drawing change which removes the "Prior Art" designation.

In each of references JA '411, JA '831 and JA '426, a double laminar mode can be set. However, an arrangement position of a temperature sensor for detecting a cooling temperature of the cooling heat exchanger and an operation control of the temperature sensor are not described. On the other hand, JA '645 describes a normal air conditioner in which the double laminar mode is **not** set. In JA '645, the set temperature of past-evaporator sensor is decreased when the outside air temperature is low. However, there is **not** caused any problem due to both-flow introduction of inside air and outside air, having different temperatures, into the cooling heat exchanger.

According to experiments of the inventors of the present invention, for example, when a temperature sensor is **simply** disposed in the first air passage (inside air passage) in the winter where the outside air temperature is lower than the inside air temperature, as shown in Figure 11B, the temperature of outside air blown from the evaporator (7) is lower than the temperature of inside air blown from the evaporator because the operation of the evaporator is controlled only based on the temperature of inside air from the evaporator. Therefore, in the winter, the cooling temperature of the evaporator may be lower than 0°C, and the evaporator may be frosted. For overcoming this problem, when a sensor set temperature is increased (e.g., from 3°C to 5°C), the temperature of outside air from the evaporator is increased to 7-8°C, and cooling performance and dehumidifying performance of the evaporator become

insufficient. On the other hand, when the temperature sensor is simply disposed in the second air passage (outside air passage) as shown in Figures 11C and 11D, the same problem described above is caused because the operation of the evaporator is controlled only by the temperature of outside air from the evaporator. Thus, in the present invention, the set temperature of the temperature sensor (39) is changed in accordance with the outside air temperature. Accordingly, the feature of the present invention is completely different from that of each reference.

Thus, Applicant believes Claims 1, 3-8 and 10 patentably distinguish over the art of record. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

New Claims 19-24 are dependent claims ultimately depending from one of the original independent claims of the present invention.

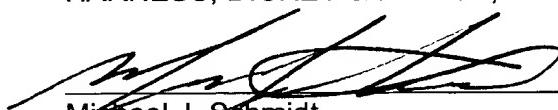
In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants would submit that all Claims are in a condition for allowance and thus Applicants request that the Examiner pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present amendment he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.

October 25, 2000
Date


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Attorney Docket: 4041J0063CPA